

REMARKS

The applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added. It is believed that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action dated **May 11, 2004**.

Finality of the Office Action

At the outset, it should be noted that this Office Action was made final. This is an error and a Petition to Withdraw Finality was filed in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on June 16, 2004.

Claim Objections

Claims 1 and 3 are objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c), as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim.

The Examiner is asserting that the limitation "wherein when more than one signal input component is selected then more than one on-off switch is turned on and more than one signal input component may be accessed at any given moment in time" is not supported by the specification.

However, page 14, line 19 to page 15, line 1 of the originally filed specification states:

"Incidentally, the audio signal delivered from the common output terminal h of the amplifier unit 1 can be recorded on both the magnetic tape and the MD at the same time by closing the switch 45 of the tape recorder 4 and the switch 55 of the MD player 5 and setting both the tape recorder 4 and the MD player 5 in a recording mode."

Thus, this feature is clearly supported by the specification. Further, Figure 1 clearly indicates that independent on-off switches (23, 33, 44 and 54) are connected to audio output circuits (21, 31, 41 and 51). Any one on-off switch (23, 33, 44 and 54) may be turned on or any combination of two or more on-off switches (23, 33, 44 and 54) may be turned on at any time. In addition, on-off switches (45 and 55) are independently connected to audio input circuits (42 and 52). Therefore, recording may simultaneously occur to both the tape recorder (4) and the MD player (5) when both on-off switches (45 and 55) are turned on as stated in the specification.

Therefore, withdrawal of the objection to Claims 1 and 3 under 37 CFR 1.75(c), as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC §112

Claims 1 and 3 are rejected under 35 USC §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement.

Again, the Examiner is asserting that the limitation "wherein when more than one signal input component is selected then more than one on-off switch is turned on and more than one signal input component may be accessed at any given moment in time" is not supported by the specification. However, page 14, line 19 to page 15, line 1 of the originally filed specification states:

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of the tape recorder 4 and the switch 55 of the MD player 5 and setting both the tape recorder 4 and the MD player 5 in a recording mode."

Thus, this feature is clearly supported by the specification. Further, Figure 1 clearly indicates that independent on-off switches (23, 33, 44 and 54) are connected to audio output circuits (21, 31, 41 and 51). Any one on-off switch (23, 33, 44 and 54) may be turned on or any combination of two or more on-off switches (23, 33, 44 and 54) may be turned on at any time. In addition, on-off switches (45 and 55) are independently connected to audio input circuits (42 and 52). Therefore, recording may simultaneously occur to both the tape recorder (4) and the MD player (5) when both on-off switches (45 and 55) are turned on as stated in the specification.

Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1 and 3 under 35 USC §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC §103

Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Washikawa (U.S. Patent 6,492,909) in view of Simpson (U.S. Patent No. 5,838,393).

The present invention is a component selection control system in which a turner (2), CD (3), taper recorder (4) and MD (5) each have there own audio output circuit (21, 31, 41 and 51) with their own on-off switches (23, 33, 44 and 54). In addition, the tape recorder (4) and the MD (5) have their own audio input circuit (42 and 52). A control circuit (22, 32, 43, and 53) indirectly controls the

operation of the on-off switches (23, 33, 44, 45, 54, and 55) based on input from control circuit (15) which receives input from input unit (14).

Washikawa describes an audio signal processing device in which a single function change-over switch (21) is used to select between playback audio signal contact pieces (11P-14P) connected to terminals (11-14). In addition, recording audio signal contact pieces (11R-14R) are connected to signal processing circuit (22). No switch is described for switching between recording audio signal contact pieces (11R-14R). Still further, control bus contact pieces (11C-14C) are connected to a connection switch unit (32) to enable sequential time division multiplexing with the micro-computer in the audio appliance connected to terminal units (11-14).

Washikawa et al. states in column 4, lines 35-48

“In this case, the connection switch unit 32 is comprised of connection switches 32a, 32b, 32c, 32d prepared for the respective terminal units independently, and can connect **sequentially** each of the switches 32a to 32d in a **time division** manner under the control of the system controller 31. In other words, the connection state of the switch 32a, the connection state of the switch 32b, the connection state of the switch 32c, and the connection state of the switch 32d are repeated sequentially to perform the communication in a time sharing fashion with a micro-computer of an audio appliance connected to each of the terminal units 11 to 14. Under the communication state in this case, data is transmitted bidirectionally in time division in accordance with a predetermined rule.” (Emphasis Added)

Simpson describes an audio video control device. This device employs two switches (214 and 234). As discussed in column 3, lines 54-58 of Simpson

“The 3-bit input select signal 208 causes switch 214 to select among the four or eight output signals 216, 218, 220, 222, 224, 226, 228 and 230 from four or eight sources, such as video tape recorders, to generate a single source signal 232. The switch 214 comprises an 8-to-1 selector, as is well known in the art.”

Further as discussed in column 3, line 65 through column 4, line 2 of Simpson

“The single source signal 232 is input to a second switch 234 controlled by the 2-bit output select signal 210. The 2-bit output select signal 210 causes switch 234 to select among the four output signals 236, 238, 240 or 242 to four destinations, such as video tape recorders. The switch 234 comprises a 1-to-4-selector (or 1-to-8 selector with only 4 outputs), as is well known in the art.”

Therefore, switch (214) selects one of eight output signals to generate a single source signal (232) and switch (234) takes the single source signal (234) and outputs its to one of four output singals (236, 238, 240 and 242).

Therefore, the prior art of record does not disclose that when more than one signal input component is selected then more than one on-off switch is turned on and more than one signal input component may be accessed at any given moment in time.

Therefore, independent claims 1 and 3 patentably distinguish over the prior art relied upon by reciting, as exemplified by claim 1,

“A component selection control system comprising a plurality of signal output components for outputting AV signals including audio signals and/or video signals, at least one signal input component for receiving the AV signal, and a signal processing control unit having connected thereto the signal output components and the signal input component, the signal processing control unit being operable to process the AV signal delivered from desired one of the signal output components as required for sound and/or image reproduction and to feed the AV signal delivered from the desired signal output component to the signal input component, the

component selection control system being characterized in that: each of the signal output components has a separate and independent on-off switch provided on a signal output line for delivering the AV signal to the signal processing control unit therethrough, the signal processing control unit having a common input terminal for receiving the AV signal from the desired signal output component, the signal output lines of the signal output components being connected to one another at a point connected to the common input terminal of the signal processing control unit, the on-off switches being controllable independently for opening or closing to select one signal output component for feeding its AV signal to the signal processing control unit, wherein when more than one signal input component is selected then more than one on-off switch is turned on and more than one signal input component may be accessed at any given moment in time." (Emphasis Added)

Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1-5 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Washikawa (U.S. Patent 6,492,909) in view of Simpson (U.S. Patent No. 5,838,393) is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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